



Volume 38

Issue 11

November 2019

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<https://rowe-ma.gov>

*Dedicated to Encouraging
Information Exchange
Between All Town Departments
and All Citizens*

THE Rowe Goal Post

Established 1975

Classic



Photo by Meredith Sokol

*In November, the trees are standing all sticks and bones.
Without their leaves, how lovely they are, spreading their
arms like dancers. They know it is time to be still.*

- Cynthia Rylant

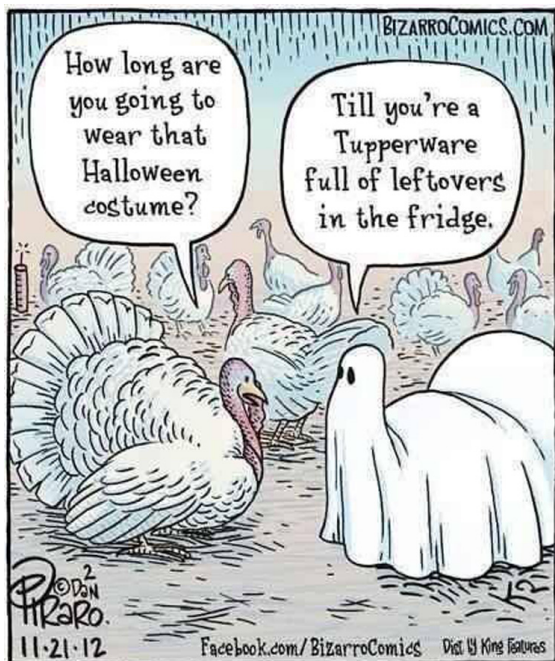
Editor's Message

Submitted by Sue Alix Williams

October has come and gone and the foliage this year seemed quite vibrant. After the wind & rain (and another power outage on the 16th) most of the leaves are now gone with the oaks and beeches holding sway with their bronze leaves.

My wrist is now fixed with a plate & 10 screws and I'm now able to type and do most everything (which is nice!).

It'd be really nice for folks to send me anything to put in the GoalPost. Do you have a great pet? An interesting hobby? A favorite recipe? Send me pictures! Have you visited somewhere neat? Write up a little article! Do you wonder about a plant or animal around here? Ask a question! Any comments or questions send to goalposteditor@gmail.com.



Selectmen's News

Submitted by Chuck Sokol, Chair

The BoS is seeking interested people to help with planning Old Home Day activities. If you are passionate about Old Home Day, or if you have interesting ideas about fun things that could be added to (or brought back!) to Old Home Day, please contact the BoS at admin@rowe-ma.gov.

The BoS is accepting applications for qualified people interested in the position of Town Accountant. Please contact the BoS for requirements and job duties.

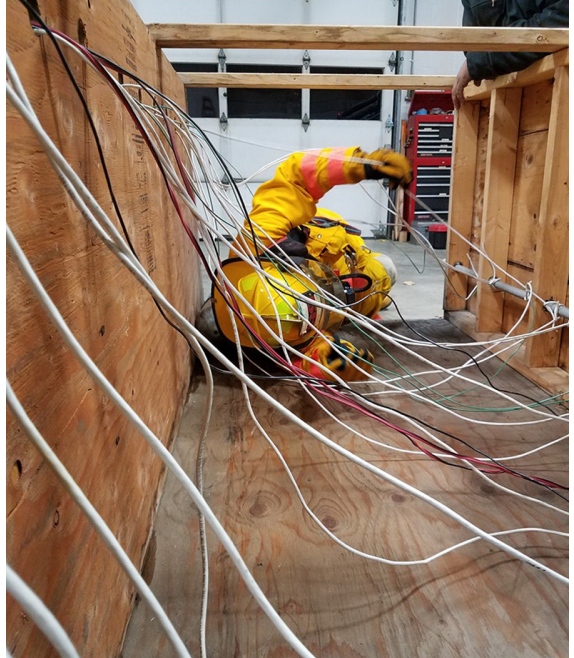
Budget season is beginning, and now that the first few gatherings to discuss the budget timeline have passed, the BoS and the Finance Committee will work with the various departments, boards, and committees to plan for next year's budget. As a part of that planning, on October 24th on the advice of the Finance Committee the BoS voted to increase wages for town employees by 2.5%, which is slightly more than the Social Security cost-of-living adjustment amount of 1.6%

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about these or any other issues, please write to the Board of Selectmen at 321 Zoar Rd, e-mail the executive secretary at admin@rowe-ma.gov, or by coming to a meeting.

Fire Department News



Project Tuscon is repurposing outdated fire hose into something useful. In this case, a rescue dummy was made.



October 17 training dealing with self rescue.



Thanks to Charlemont Fire Rescue for use of the props

photos from the Rowe Fire Dept. Facebook page

Assessors' News

Submitted by Rick Williams & Ellen Miller

Assessors' Clerk Retires: Sandy Daviau retired from her position as Assessors' Clerk effective June 30th, but has been filling in while the search for her replacement was underway. We thank Sandy for her exemplary, gracious service to Board, townspeople and the public over the past 24 years, and wish her well in her semi-retirement [Sandy is still Tax Collector].

Welcome to our new Assistant Assessor: In mid-October Colleen Avallone of Brittingham Hill Rd was appointed by the Assessors as Assistant Assessor. Along with becoming familiar with the office routine—with assistance from Sandy Daviau and the Board—Colleen will immediately work on attaining DOR Course 101 certification (Introduction to Assessment Administration: Law, Procedures and Valuation). Her posted office hours are Monday afternoons from 3:30-5:30pm. She can be available other times by appointment. Contact info: 413-339-5520 ext.15 or assessor@rowe-ma.gov.

FY19 Utility and Power Company Valuations Appealed to Appellate Tax Board: Values increased in FY19 for Bear Swamp Power Co., Great River Hydro, and New England Power Co. Due to these increases all three have appealed their valuations to the MA Appellate Tax Board (ATB)—even though the resulting CIP tax rate dropped from \$14.73 to \$8.02. Their values were based on appraisals performed in 2018 by our contracted appraisal consultant, GESansoucy. Attorney David Klebanoff has been retained to represent the town for these ATB cases. Each case will result in one of the following outcomes: 1) settlement is reached prior to ATB hearing taking place, 2) ATB finds in favor of the utility, 3) ATB finds in favor of the town, or 4) ATB declines the appeal for any number of reasons.

Assessors' Overlay/Surplus: The DOR requires that towns set aside sufficient funds in Assessors' Overlay for tax abatements. In light of the above ATB appeals, we must plan for potential abatements. From 2002 thru 2017 the annual amount set aside averaged \$30K. Following the 2018 appraisals \$100K was aside in FY19. We plan to set aside additional funds in FY20. Once the appeal cases are closed and satisfied, any unnecessary Overlay funds can be declared surplus by the Assessors and turned back to the town as a revenue source for that same fiscal year. Any Overlay Surplus balance at year end closes out to the general fund, to become part of the subsequent year's Free Cash.

FY20 Property Values: FY20 is an interim update year (vs. the total town revaluation done every 5 years). Based on real estate sales analysis, valuations of residential homes, yard items and building lots were adjusted up by ~3%. Excess land was not adjusted. Total town valuation increased by ~0.34% (from ~\$513.673 million to ~\$515.427 million) of which ~\$1.985 million is New Growth.

FY20 Tax Rates/Tax Bills: A Tax Classification Hearing was held with the Selectmen on Oct 24 where an MRF (Minimum Residential Factor) of .65 was selected, representing the tax burden shift from Residential (R) to Commercial-Industrial-Personal (CIP). This in turn established split tax rates of R/\$5.33 and CIP/\$8.53. Last year's rates were R/\$5.01 and CIP/\$8.02. The Assessors expect to sign warrants for FY20 real estate and personal property taxes by Oct 31. First half tax bills should be in the mail by the week of Nov 4, with payments due within 30 days of postmark.

Contact the Assessor's Office at 339-5520 x-15 or send an email to assessor@rowe-ma.gov with any questions or for more information. You may also check the state Department of Revenue website or the Assessors page of the Rowe Town website using the following links:

Assessors' News cont'd**Taxpayer Guides to Real Estate Tax Exemptions,
Deferrals and Abatements in Massachusetts**Go to: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/taxpayer-forms-and-guides>Go to: <https://rowe-ma.gov/g/39/Board-of-Assessors>**Hobblebush**

Photo by Sue Williams

BIGFOOT SPOTTED!

Bigfoot was spotted by Meredith Sokol on a walk around the block. He was lurking at the school side of the causeway pond! Did anyone else spot him?

FUN FACT!

Adams Mt. was originally known as South Mt. and Pelham Lake was the Big Pond with Mill Pond being the Little Pond.



Pelham Lake Park photo



Rowe Town Library News

Submitted by Molly Lane, Library Director

Library Hours: Tuesday & Saturday 10-5, Wednesday 10-8

Programs:

Please join us on **Wednesday, November 6 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** for the opening of a new art exhibit at the Rowe Library. Billy Hardison, of Rowe, will be displaying some of his paintings for the next two months.

Billy studied at the School of the Museum of Fine arts in Boston for two years, where he completed his planned course of study. He and his wife Leonda moved to Rowe in 1968, where he set up his studio and continued his art studies. He has continued until the present to paint. He has experimented in several mediums and styles, with portraiture as his main interest. Several times in the past his paintings have been featured on the cover of the Goal Post.

So, please come out for the art opening—it will be a wonderful opportunity to meet Billy and talk with him about his art career. Refreshments will be served.

Wednesday November 27th the library will be closing at 3pm to allow everyone to enjoy Thanksgiving preparations with their families.

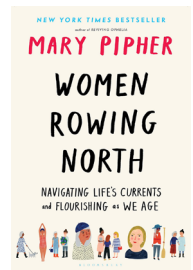
Kids: Craft Wednesdays: each school early release Wednesdays @ 2:30pm

Tuesday November 5th-No School

Lego Fun @ 11 am

Craft Fun @ 2:30 pm

Adults: **Wednesday November 6th** @ 6pm-8pm Billy Hardison Art Reception



Monday November 18th @ 2:15pm Book Club “Women Rowing North” by Mary Pipher

Wednesday November 20th @ 6:30pm

Exploring the Zentangle® Method. Join us as we explore the Zentangle® method of drawing.

Open to 12 participants, please pre register.

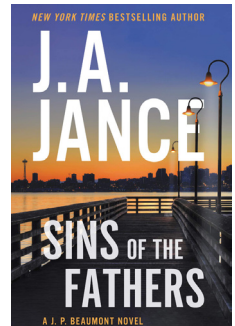
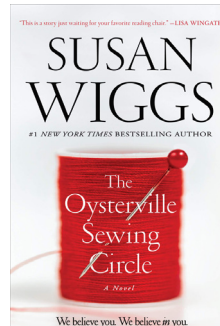
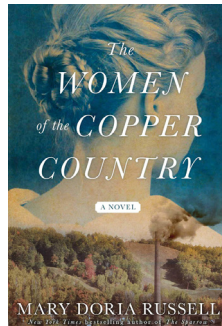
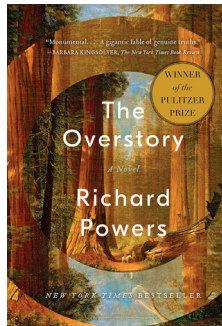
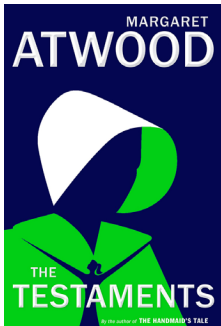


Contact the library if you would like to be put on our email notifications for programs.

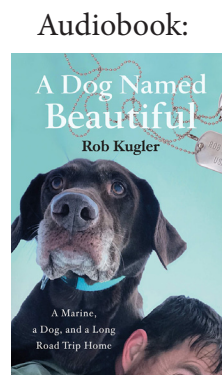
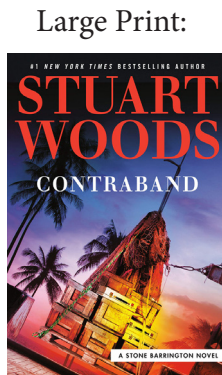
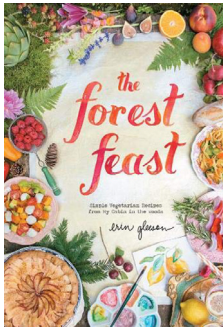
Rowelibrary@gmail.com

Some New Items This Month

Adult Fiction:



Mystery:

Adult
Non-Fiction:

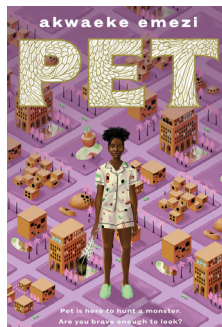
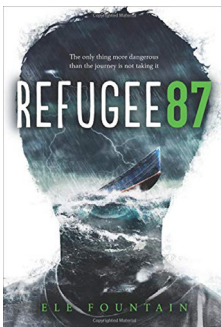
Large Print:

Audiobook:

DVD:

Music CD:

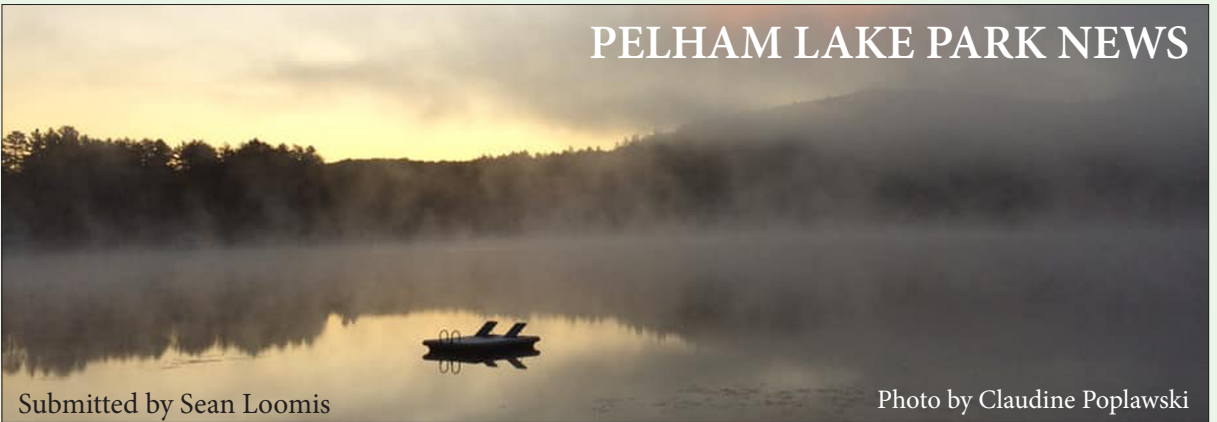
Young Adult & Juvenile Fiction:



"The house was very quiet, and the fog—we are in November now—pressed against the windows like an excluded ghost."
E.M. Forster, *Howards End*

Pumpkin Painting
photo by Donna Butzke

PELHAM LAKE PARK NEWS



Submitted by Sean Loomis

Photo by Claudine Poplawski

Summer is ending and fall is here. With temperatures getting chillier and the water getting less tempting to jump into, the park is prepared for the arrival of the colder months.

The Percy Brown has been taken out and put away along with the boat docks and the raft from the swim area. Buoys have been reeled in as well, indicating the swim season wrapping up. No worries though, not everything has been tucked away quite yet. The kayaks will be out until the beginning of November, so any resident or guest is still able to feel free and use them as they please!

The boats and docks may be out for the fall and winter; however the hiking trails are still in need of some use! The brilliant fall foliage might be losing their vibrant colors but there is still a little color to be seen. you simply can't miss this time of the year. To get a perfect landscape panorama, don't forget to come and visit down at the park to hike up one of the views as well.

I'd also like to extend a big thank you to all the park employees this summer: Nick Baker, Madison Baker, Emma Poplawski, Grace Poplawski, Erin Laffond, Taylor Loomis, Bailey Cousineau, Sean Clancy, Liam Clancy, Danielle Beaumier, and James Harrison.

FITNESS CENTER: The Fitness Center is open for winter hours. Deb Lively has been hired back and she waiting patiently waiting for you to join her. Deb has many years' experience in health and fitness and is more than willing to help.

Deb Lively's Winter Fitness Center Hours are: 10:00-12:00, 5:00-7:00 Monday and Wednesday. The fitness center is still open when the town hall is open.



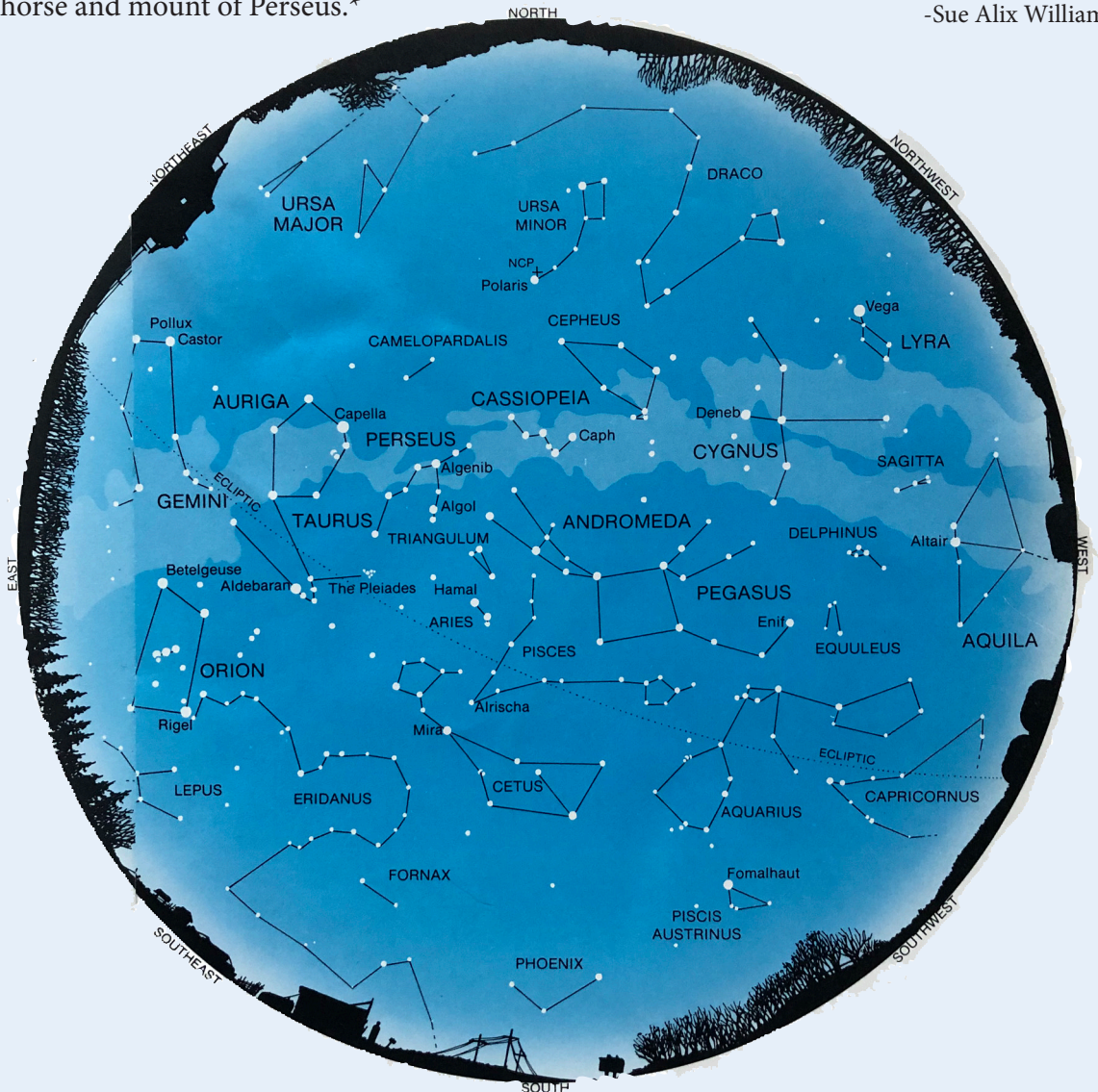
Deb Lively

YOGA: The Park is hosting free yoga classes for all town residents. Yoga instructor Kate Peppard is the founder and principal teacher at the Highland Yoga Studio. She is certified by Yoga Alliance. Kate instructs yoga every Tuesdays 4:30-5:30 in the Rowe School Cafeteria. If you would like to learn more about Kate, check out her web page at <http://www.highlandyoga.studio>

Our Lovely Night Sky

We are lucky to live in an area where we can still see an amazing night sky without a lot of light pollution. In November the stars of the summer are now setting, while the bright winter stars are rising. The summer triangle made of Deneb, Vega & Altair are now setting in the west while directly overhead we can see the players in the most famous of all the star legends, that of Cassiopeia, the vain queen, Cepheus, the foolish king, their innocent daughter, Andromeda, chained to a rock by the sea, and Perseus, the hero, her rescuer. There, too, are two creatures who also figure in this drama - Cetus, the sea monster, and Pegasus, the flying horse and mount of Perseus.*

-Sue Alix Williams



*Star Chart & parts of text taken from the book Discover the Stars by Richard Berry

RHS Presents - Julia Amidon Browning (1849-1926)

-Submitted by Joanne Semanie



Many will have noticed there is renewed activity at 306 Zoar Rd. now owned by Mark and Jenalyn Duval who have recently moved into Rowe. One of its former owners has always been an inspiration to me, not only for her industrious nature but also her kindness.

Julia Browning was born in Rowe in 1849 to Daniel Amidon and Mary Fuller. Daniel was the son of Solomon Amidon, one of the first families in town. Daniel was a prosperous farmer. The Amidons were skilled carpenters and built the brick-based house on Zoar Rd. now owned by the Rowe Camp. They also built the house below it now owned by Duvals.

E.E. Amidon (from the August edition of the Goalpost) was Julia's uncle who lived with her some of the time before and after he ran the Old Village Store (1852-1882). Miss Amidon was a bright, capable woman who kept her Uncle Ed's cash ledgers for his store, some of which are presently at the museum. The penmanship is beautiful, and the ledgers give a fine picture of Rowe families from 1861 to 1862.

Julie married Arthur Browning in September 1872. He was also born in Rowe. Arthur attended local schools then went to Greenfield where he learned to be a jeweler. After their marriage they lived in the house on Zoar Rd. He worked in Greenfield until the second year of the Civil War when he enlisted. Never a strong man his health gave out after one year in the Army. Arthur died in 1882 leaving Julia with their 7-year-old son, Frederick, who grew up to

be his mother's pride and joy. He was educated at Deerfield Academy and later worked in his great uncle's store and inherited E.E. Amidon's shingle shop when he died. He did odd jobs, among them making skis.

After her husband's death Julia was dependent on her own efforts for support. During each summer her house was filled with boarders. Mrs. Browning was skilled at entertaining, a capable hostess and a noteworthy cook. There was always a friendly rivalry between Julia and other of her friends who kept summer boarders, they kept their prize recipes secret, sharing them with no one.

Taking in boarders was no easy task, one had to keep a large garden for vegetables, gather fruits and berries and prepare 3 meals a day, the main one served promptly at noon. The widows who kept summer boarders planned to make enough money each season to pay their taxes and buy their wood for winter heat.

After her sister Eleanor (Mrs. Alfred Reed) lost her eyesight Julia spent much time with her. They lived next door to each other and Julia very frequently slipped out her back door to take some tasty sample of her cooking up to the Reeds or to read a bit to her sister. Eleanor's braille bible, which can be seen in this photograph, is at the museum.

Julia was an active participant in the social life of the town, engineering card parties, socials and school programs at her home. Several invitations to such affairs are in the museum.

Always a member of the Unitarian Church in Rowe she was an ardent worker in all the church activities of her time as well as all charitable matters pertaining to the welfare of the community. She died in 1926 a fine example of a most commendable life as one who loved all around her. As one reads the many comments about Julia from friends, family, boarders and townspeople you can see how she was loved by the community.



Health Care Updates; November 2019

Submitted by Sheila Litchfield, RN, Town Nurse

Eastern Equine Encephalitis: Rowe's risk for EEE was elevated to "Moderate in mid-August" after a person was determined to have been exposed locally. The seasonal risk for EEE is eliminated after a hard frost, defined as "one hour below 28 degrees or three hours below 32 degrees". Unfortunately the State Dept. of Public Health (DPH) will not declare EEE risk is gone until the definition has been met for the entire state. DPH will reevaluate our risk next year, however we can prepare for next mosquito season by:

- Not allowing water to accumulate to become a mosquito breeding area
- Using larvicide in garden ponds, catch basins or other areas where water is expected to accumulate.
- At town meeting vote in favor of Rowe joining the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District because this will give us a head start on capturing and testing mosquitos and treating habitats with a larvicide before EEE can become a problem.

Influenza season: According to recent reports, seasonal influenza activity remains low in the United States with "minimal" activity in western Massachusetts. Influenza A(H3N2) is the predominant virus at this point in the season. Flu virus activity is expected to increase up as the weather turns colder. It is not too late to get a flu shot. Plan to attend the **Saturday November 9th community-wide flu clinic at the former Heath Elementary School (18 Jacobs Rd.) between 9 am and 11 am.** Bring your health insurance card if you have one.

Ticks: Deer ticks, the type that can carry Lyme Disease, are still around and can be a threat anytime the temperature is above freezing (32°F/0°C)—yes, even in winter. But don't let this curtail your enjoyment of the outdoors - Just take the proper preventative measures:

- Use an insect repellent containing DEET
- Apply Permethrin to clothing or buy outdoor clothing pre-treated with Permethrin.
- After outdoor activities, take a hot shower, scrub all of your skin with a cloth or loofah, and feel for ticks as you wash. Dry all of your skin vigorously with a towel. Then do a thorough tick check and remove any ticks you find.

Finding a tick on you—even one that has attached, does not mean you will contact a disease. 50% to 75% of ticks do not carry disease-causing bacteria, and the tick must feed for a certain amount of time in order to communicate a disease. If you remove it on the same day it got onto you, you may have no reason to worry. Monitor the site of the bite daily for a week or two, and contact your doctor if you are concerned.



Why do leaves change color in the Autumn?

Most of the spectacular colors of autumn have actually been in the leaves all summer, however they were "covered up" by the dominant green of the chlorophyll. As weather cools, and shorter days settle in, the chlorophyll begins to break down, revealing new and varied color pigments. The brightest colors are seen when late summer is dry, and autumn has bright sunny days and cool nights.



White Birch



GREEN - Chlorophyll

Chlorophyll is responsible for helping trees and plants turn sunlight into food. For most months, it is the dominant color seen in most leaves until it fades away. As many trees shut down their food production, they turn to stored sugars to survive the winter.



Swamp Chestnut Oak



RED - Anthocyanin

Unlike other leaf colors that always exist in the leaf, anthocyanins are produced as the chlorophyll is broken down. The anthocyanins are often seen in leaves named for their autumn splash of red including Red Maples, Scarlet Oaks, and Red Sumacs.



Sugar Maple



ORANGE - Carotene

Sugar Maples may be one of the best examples of carotene in action. Their bright signature orange fills many hills and country roads throughout the northern US. Sassafras leaves also turn a slightly more muted orange. As its name implies, Carotenes are also the chemical responsible for giving carrots their unique coloring.



Aspen



YELLOW - Xanthophyll

Xanthophyll can be seen throughout the fall in trees including beeches, ashes, birches, aspens, and some oaks. It also contributes its bright yellow color to autumn squash and corn.



Song For Autumn

Don't you imagine the leaves dream now
how comfortable it will be to touch
the earth instead of the
nothingness of the air and the endless
freshets of wind?

And don't you think
the trees, especially those with
mossy hollows, are beginning to look for
the birds that will come—six, a dozen—to sleep
inside their bodies?

And don't you hear
the goldenrod whispering goodbye,
the everlasting being crowned with the first
tuffets of snow?

The pond stiffens and the white field over which
the fox runs so quickly brings out
its long blue shadows. The wind wags
its many tails. And in the evening
the piled firewood shifts a little
longing to be on its way.

-Mary Oliver



Sudoku

Easy

9								
		4	3	6			9	
	2				4		1	3
1	5		7		9			8
								7
7	6		4		8			1
	3				7		5	2
		7	5	8			6	
5								

Enter the digits 1 through 9 into each 3x3 box, column, and row only once. To win sudoku, you must place all the numbers correctly into the board.

Rowe Community Church

Submitted by Ros Mullette

Worship Services are held on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

- Nov. 3 Worship & Praise Service
& Observance of The Lord's Supper
10 Worship & Praise Service
17 Worship & Praise Service
24 Worship & Praise Service

Bible studies are held on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and will be held on November 6 & 13.

Annual Budget Meeting will be held on Wednesday, Nov 20 at 7:00 p.m.

May you all have a truly blessed & happy Thanksgiving with family & friends!

November Birthdays

- 4 - Io Sokol
5 - Sue Alix Williams
7 - Jack Williams
8 - Taylor Bailey
10 - Margorie Morse
10 - Jill Rose-Fish
13 - Kris Swenson
13 - Mike Bradley
14 - Dennis May
15 - Cindy Laffond
17 - Florence Bjork
17 - John Baldwin
17 - Brian Crowningshield
18 - Helen Shields
19 - Heidi Phelps
22 - Madison Baker
22 - Nicole Wrisley
24 - Tim Snyder
28 - Spencer Laffond
30 - Paul Mclatchy
30 - Laurie Pike

Notice from the Board of Health

The Refuse Gardens, along with all surrounding towns, will no longer be recycling stove pellet bags. They were being sent for recycling to China who is no longer taking them. Going forward they will go into the regular trash. Try using them to dispose of your household trash instead of a bag you purchase.

It's Hunting Season!!

Deer - Archery: Oct. 21 – Nov. 30

Bear - November 4-23



Bummer of a birthmark, Hal

Bald Eagle by Atwoods at Pelham Lake



Photo by Jenn Morse

Jack Williams Update

Jack sends his regards to all Rowe friends from the Vermont Veteran's Home. After a fall in his room and several trips to the ER earlier this summer he is on the mend and recently moved to a private room (Rm 903). He's no longer able to send/receive email but cards and letters (or an occasional visit) are always welcome. Jack's 91st birthday is coming up on November 7.

His address is: Vermont Veteran's Home, 325 North Street, Bennington, VT 05201

Sue and Dennis Pollock recently visited Jack on a warm September day.





Photo by Meredith Sokol

*Dew on a spiders web is a wonderful sight,
Early morning finds what has been created
at night,*

*Lovely designs spun so nice,
Without a pattern of device,
Looking at a mat of lace,
Shows how long it takes to place.*

-Dorothy Snow

Thank You

A note of thanks to everyone for their kind words & support and for attending the service for my mother, Robin Reed.

- Buster Reed

Community Flu Vaccine Clinic

Saturday November 9th from 9 to 11; at the former Heath School, 18 Jacobs Rd, Heath.

Bring your health insurance card if you have one; fees waived as needed.

Note: the Rowe Town Nurse has run out of flu vaccine for people over 17 years of age, so if you did not get a flu shot yet, plan to attend the Nov 9 clinic in Heath- I will see you there! -Sheila Litchfield, RN



Mark Your Calendars!

Monday, November 4 th at 6 PM

Soup & Game Night

a monthly event

at the Carriage House at the Museum.

Come for the food, have a little wine,
play a board game or cards,
make some new friends and
enjoy the dark months.

Food, wine and games provided.

Town Services

<u>Accountant</u>	Wed	9:00-12:00 (or by appt)	339-5520 x12
<u>Admin Assistant</u>	M,T,Th,F	8:00-12:00,12:30-4:30	339-5520 x10
<u>Assessor's Clerk</u>	Wed	8:00-2:00	339-5520 x15
<u>Fire Station</u>	Emergency - 911		339-4001
<u>Executive Secretary</u>	Mon-Thurs	9:30-5:00	339-5520 x11
<u>Fitness Ctr</u>	Mon-Fri	8:00-5:00	339-5520 x21
<u>FRTA Sr. Bus</u>	Tuesdays	9:00	774-2262 x103
<u>Historical Society</u>	(by Appt)		339-4238
<u>Library</u>	Tues, Sat 10:00-5:00, Wed 10:00-8:00		339-4761
<u>Park</u>	Mon- Friday		339-8554
<u>Police Dept</u>	Wed	5:30-7:30pm	339-8340
<u>Post Office</u>	Mon-Fri 12:15-4:15, Sat 8:30-11:30		339-5390
<u>Rowe School</u>	Mon-Friday	8:00-3:15	512-5100
<u>Tax Collector</u>	Wed	8:00-2:00	339-5520 x19
<u>Town Clerk</u>	M,T,Th,Fr	7:00-8:00am, 4:30-5:30pm	339-5520 x14
<u>Town Garage</u>	Mon-Thurs	6:30-4:30	339-5588
<u>Town Nurse</u>	Mon,Wed,Fri	9:00-5:00	339-5520 x20
<u>Transfer St.</u>	Wed 7-10am, 4-7pm Sat 8-2, Sun 8-12		339-0216
<u>Treasurer</u>	Mon 9-1 & by appt		339-5520 x16

The Rowe Goal Post
P.O. Box 462
Rowe, Massachusetts 01367
Change Service Requested

The Rowe Goal Post

Available on the Town's website (<https://rowe-ma.gov/p/64/Rowe-Goal-Post>)
the first of every month with paper copies sent out by mail the first week

Published by the Board of Selectmen 'in the interest of information
exchange between all departments and all Rowe citizens.

All submissions for the next issue are due by the 25th.
Any articles received after this time cannot be guaranteed that
they will appear in the next issue.

Please e-mail all items to:
GoalPostEditor@gmail.com

Please send only high resolution images (do not resize).

If you have a question about your subscription or want to make a change to the mailing list, please
contact the Town Administrator at:

(413) 339-5520 x11
admin@rowe-ma.gov

Seasonal residents MUST notify the Administrator of any change in address.